

Page Denied

TOP SECRET

Copy 51

19 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR:

AD/DCI/NIPE

THROUGH

: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Science & Technology

SUBJECT

: Project ARGO

1. This is in response to your request for comments on the draft memorandum from Dr. Hornig to departments and agencies participating in Project ARGO. These comments represent the views of DCS&T, DDI (including IRS) and NPIC. Each of these components agreed with your own comments on the draft letter.

2. In particular, we agree that something must be said about costs. We would suggest taking one step further in proposing that participating agencies might be faced with sharing the high costs of these programs. Further, we believe it is essential to point out that programs must continue to be operated primarily to satisfy intelligence requirements. We would therefore suggest a new paragraph to be added to the letter, perhaps at the end, which might be worded along the following lines.

"Finally in the course of preparing these reports, you should recognize the essentiality of continued operation of these programs primarily in support of intelligence, and keep in mind the high cost of the programs, which may have to be shared proportionately by all participating departments and agencies."

3. It appears that paragraph 2 of the letter is too positive about the benefits derived from the photography by the civilian agencies. We would therefore suggest the following changes in paragraph 2. In the 2nd line, change "strong" to "considerable"; in the 3rd line, change "service" to "benefit".

4. In paragraph 3, we would like to insert the word "satellite" before "photography" and delete the words "from the current systems" in line 6. The deletion removes the implication that all photography

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

-3-

from current systems will be available for use by these agencies. (The product of the main camera [] was not made available for study during Project ARGO.) With regard to your proposed change concerning relations with USIB, we suggest the following alternative course:

"I would propose that my office chair the committee until the activity gets well established. If you agree, I would like to know who your representative would be. It will of course be necessary for the committee to operate in close liaison with the Director of Central Intelligence in recognition of his statutory responsibility for the protection of intelligence sources and methods."

5. It seems to us that the final paragraph encourages the identification and submission of requirements without appropriate evaluation of possible gains. We suggest changing the word "demonstrate" to "evaluate" in the 2nd line at the top of page 3. Further, we suggest inserting a new (3) to read "an assessment of the value, in terms of dollar savings or improved products, if these requirements can be met;". Change old (3) to (4).

6. For your information and possible use in your discussions with [] we continue to be concerned about the security of the systems and products as we move toward greatly expanded use and exposure of the materials. In particular we are concerned about [] would urge resistance to pressures to permit use of this product. Further we would hope that civilian agency personnel participating in the use of the materials would not be exposed in any way to follow-on systems.

7. [] should also be reminded that it is essential under current budgetary and personnel restrictions that the workload imposed on NPIC by future civilian programs be held to a minimum and that services to these agencies must be subordinate to NPIC's primary mission. (In supporting Project ARGO in its relatively modest scope, NPIC has expended 3,279 manhours.) We are also concerned about civilian agency competition for FI's, photogrammetrists and other specialists which are in extremely short supply. A solution to this problem is not apparent at this time.

[]
Acting Chief

DDI/Information Requirements Staff

DDI/IRS/Recce []

Distribution:

#1 & 2 - []

3 - DDI

✓ # 4 - DDS&T

✓ #5 - D/NPIC

#6 - O/S []

7 & 8 - IRS/Recce